

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: SUSLOV'S LENINGRAD SPEECH

1. SUSLOV'S SEPTEMBER 17 SPEECH AT THE KIROV FACTORY IN
LENINGRAD -- WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS THE FULL TEXT -- STRIKES
US AS VINTAGE SUSLOV, WITH MINIMAL REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV,
NO MENTION OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, AND
EMPHASIS UPON IDEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF BOTH DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

2. WE FOUND THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS NOTEWORTHY:

-- SUSLOV DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE FACTORY'S
PRODUCTION OF FARM TRACTORS; THIS ACCORDS WITH THE LINE
WE RECENTLY HEARD FROM A MIDDLE-LEVEL MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL, WHO SAID THAT THE CURRENT PUSH
WAS TO IMPORVE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE AGRI-
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CULTURAL SECTOR (SEPAIR);

-- ON "THE STRUGGLE TO RAISE ECONOMIC EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPROVE QUALITY," SUSLOV BEAT THE DRUMS FOR SOCIALIST EMULATION AND SAID NOTHING ABOUT ECONOMIC INCENTIVES OR REFORM;

-- REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SUSLOV TOUTED THE SUPERIORITY OF THE "SOCIALIST SYSTEM" OVER "IMPERIALISM," WITH POINTED REFERENCE TO THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL, AND DID NOT MENTION BREZHNEV'S PEACE PROGRAM OR RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION;

-- ON THE ECPC, SUSLOV ASSERTED THAT THE EUROPEAN CP'S "EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WOULD DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF THE GREAT IDEAS OF MARX, ENGELS, AND LENING."
MATLOCK

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